

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035987

41

ORIGIN AGR-20

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, US, AS

SUBJ: PROSPECTS FOR APPLICATION OF MEAT IMPORT ACT OF 1964

REF : CANBERRA 0915

1.. GOODMAN REMARKS AS REPORTED PARAS 1 AND 2 REFTL ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. GOA INTERPRETATION MAY BE EXAGGERATED, HOWEVER, SINCE REIMPOSITION US MEAT IMPORT RESTRAINTS WOULD DEPEND UPON ACTUAL MARKET DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CANNOT NOW BE PREDICTED WITH CERTAINTY. ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING SUSPENSION OF 1974 QUOTOS UNDER MEAT IMPORT ACT HAVE CARRIED PROVISIO THAT CHANGE IN MARKET CONDITIONS COULD REQUIRE RECONSIDERATION OF SUSPENSION.

2. BOTH AUSTRALIA AND U.S. HAVE LARGE BUILDUP IN CATTLE NUMBERS. GIVEN THE UNSTABLE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCREASED IMPORT PRESSURE FROM AUSTRALIAN BEEF INTO U.S. MARKET AS A RESULT OF REDUCED ALTERNATIVE MARKETS APPEARS POSSIBLE. WITH EC IMPORT REGULATIONS ONCE AGAIN IN FULL EFFECT, THE U.S. IN EC, AND CURRENT PROBLEMS IN JAPAN, U.S. IS ONLY MAJOR OPEN WORLD MARKET FOR BEEF. THESE FACTORS PLUS POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY DOMESTIC

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PAGE 02 STATE 035987

MARKETINGS COULD FORCE US RESTRAINTS IN 1974, DEPENDING ON ACTUAL

MARKET CONDITION.

3. EMBASSY MAY, IF APPROPRIATE, USE DISCUSSION GOA CONCERN OVER
POSSIBLE REIMPOSITION US MEAT IMPORT RESTRAINTS AS OPPORTUNITY
REMIND GOA OF US CONCERN OVER ACTUAL AUSTRALIAN RESTRICTIONS
AFFECTING ENTRY OF US TOBACCO AND BREEDING CATTLE. RUSH

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